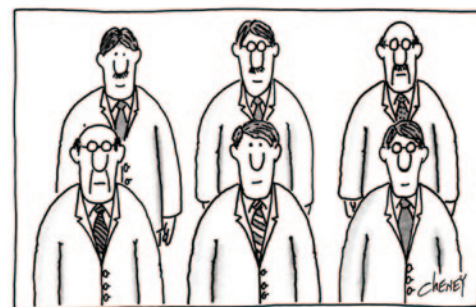


Who Wrote That?

In the course of a scientific lifetime, investigators may publish under different names (or variations thereof) and at multiple institutions. How can we be sure this intellectual output is attributed correctly, especially considering the ambiguity that arises when many researchers share the same last name and first initial, names change, name order is unintentionally reversed, or different variations of a name appear? Enter ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID), an independent nonprofit registry of unique researcher identifiers linking research activities and outputs to these identifiers, much as a DOI (digital object identifier) is linked to a specific published journal article.

ORCID is working with the research community to integrate the ORCID identifier into manuscript submissions, publications, professional society memberships and meetings, and grant applications. Member organizations include Thomson Reuters, CrossRef, leading research universities and professional associations, Nature Publishing Group and other major publishers, as well as the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Wellcome Trust. ORCID is rapidly gaining traction in the research community as a means to solve the name-ambiguity problem in research and improve the efficiency of research funding and collaboration. (Currently, NIH has integrated ORCID identifiers into its grant-application workflows, and the ORCID identifier can be linked to other national and specialty-specific ID systems, such as ResearcherID and Scopus Author ID.) *JID*'s manuscript tracking system, ScholarOne Manuscripts (owned by Thomson Reuters), allows incorporation of the ORCID identifier into its submission process, and *JID* has adopted this as an optional data field.



Left to right, top row: Arthur Tyler Winston, Tyler Winston Arthur, Winston Arthur Tyler. Bottom row: Tyler Arthur Winston, Winston Tyler Arthur, Arthur Winston Tyler.

Cartoon by Tom Cheney, *The New Yorker* (<http://www.cartoonbank.com>).

JID is pleased to support the ORCID effort by encouraging authors to obtain ORCID identifiers (it's easy—only your first and last name, e-mail address, and a password are required) and enter them when submitting. Once you have an ID, you can enter each of the names under which you have published (in any language), allowing these names to be collected under your ORCID identifier. You can also link your record to multiple e-mail addresses, making it easy for you to log in and for ORCID to prevent creation of a duplicate record. Your profile can be augmented with automated searches linked to EuropePubMedCentral and CrossRef, the results of which you confirm before links to these publications are incorporated. Publication links can also be added manually, and future publications bearing your identifier will automatically be linked to your profile. As of early 2014, patents, grants, and affiliations can also be linked to your record. For now, the ORCID ID will not be required for *JID* submissions, but we envision this to be the case in the near future as ORCID becomes more widely used in the research community. (As of 22 November 2013, a total of 402,816 ORCID IDs have been created, and they are associated with 1,505,564 unique works.)

We see ORCID as a robust answer to the problem of name ambiguity and a clear way to

ensure that appropriate credit is given for intellectual output, including journal articles, data sets, and patents. As stated in a *Nature* Editorial at the time ORCID was proposed, “The ID system could make it possible for each researcher to have a constantly updated ‘digital curriculum vitae’” (*Nature*, 2009). Because ORCID uses open-source code, it encourages third parties to develop applications that interact with and enhance the registry. We imagine that there will be considerable value to journals, authors, and reviewers for investigators’ contact information and areas of interest to be updatable in one place that approved journals could tap into; perhaps this will become a reality when ORCID is firmly established.

In the meantime, disambiguate yourself—get your own ORCID ID at <http://orcid.org>.

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REFERENCE

Credit where credit is due (2009) *Nature* 462:825